

24. (Amended herein) The polarization

independent optical isolator/circulator of Claim 22 wherein is disposed in both paths of at least one said interferometer a quarter wave retarder and further comprising an additional 90° path length difference between the two paths, and wherein further the slow axes of said quarter wave retarders are mutually perpendicular.

Please add new Claim 25.

25. (new herein) The polarization independent optical isolator/circulator of Claim 23 or Claim 24 further comprising a half-wave retarder disposed between said first and said second interferometer the slow axis of said half-wave retarder disposed between said first and said second interferometers being oriented at an angle of 22.5° relative to the slow axis of one of the retarders disposed within one of said interferometers so that the angle of said linearly polarized light will not change in one propagation direction and will be rotated by 90° in the other propagation direction.